

# Communists Perverting Youth

HON. HARRY S. McDEVITT

*Crosier Father,  
Hastings, Nebr.*

## Pope Warns of Perils in Godless Communism

## Class War!

JOACHIM V. BENSON, M.S.S.T.

---

---

# The Catholic Mind

Volume XXXIV, No. 14

July 22, 1936

Price 5 Cents

THE AMERICA PRESS - 461 Eighth Avenue - New York, N. Y.

---

---

---

# ENCYCLICALS

## POPE LEO

ON LABOR

## POPE PIUS

ON RETREATS

ON EDUCATION

ON CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

ON RECONSTRUCTION

ON EPHESUS

ON SPAIN

THE HOLY YEAR 1933-1934

ON REUNION OF EASTERN CHURCHES

ON THE PEACE OF CHRIST

UNTO ALL CREATION

ON ST. AUGUSTINE

ON ST. WENCESLAUS

ON CATHOLIC ACTION (Letter)

ON THE NEW PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY

ON THE SACRED HEART

ON THE CATHOLIC PRIESTHOOD

5 (postage 2) cents each \$4.00 per 100 \$30.00 per 1,000

(Postage on bulk copies extra)

 Complete Set (postage included) 85 cents

THE AMERICA PRESS, 461 Eighth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

---

THE CATHOLIC MIND, July 22, 1936. Volume XXXIV, No. 14. Published semi-monthly by The America Press, 461 Eighth Avenue, New York. Subscription postpaid: United States, 5 cents a copy; yearly, \$1.00; foreign, \$1.25. Entered as second-class matter, October 22, 1914, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 4, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rates of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on June 29, 1913. Trade-mark "Catholic Mind," Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

## Communists Perverting Youth

HON. HARRY S. McDEVITT

*An address given at the Convention of the Middle Atlantic Conference of Newman Clubs, at Newman Hall, University of Pennsylvania, reprinted from the Catholic Standard and Times (Philadelphia, Pa.), in the issue of April 17, 1936.*

THE college student of today is confronted by many dangers that we, of an earlier generation, escaped. From many angles there comes to the students great and glowing preachments of new philosophies, new conception of man, and new types of government. Altogether too many educators in our schools and colleges are inoculating the student mind with the virus of Atheism and un-Americanism under the guise of liberalism and academic freedom.

### LIES AND HALF-TRUTHS

Deliberate lies and half-truths are presented in most alluring terms, well calculated to break down the students' moral fiber, thus rendering it easier to instill in the minds of the youth in their charge, the doctrines of Atheism and Communism, teaching them that love of God and country is an outmoded thought. So cleverly, and in such a plausible manner, are these dangerous doctrines presented, that one would be justified in saying with Holy Scripture, "As to deceive even the elect."

Today I would speak to you of the philosophy called Communism. I term it a philosophy instead of a political party or an economic movement because that is exactly what it is; a philosophy not only of life, but of death. You could call it "The religion of the Godless." Founded upon the doctrines taught by Karl Marx and his friend and co-worker, Friedrich Engels, Communism represents today's greatest enemy of God and State. Atheistic in principle and action, the depraved doctrines of these men have wrought untold misery in the world. I shall endeavor to strip the cloak of "liberalism" from this menace called "Communism" and exhibit it as the "whited sepulcher" it truly is.

## A SOCIALIST RUSE

First, let us understand that the label "Communism" is a ruse deliberately used by Socialists to lure into their fold the uninformed and unwary. The true doctrines of Marx and Engels are the vicious philosophy of Socialism. Make no mistake about this. The proper understanding of this fact would have enabled many to escape contamination. When I use the term "Communism" you will recognize it as the Socialistic creed of Marx and Engels and their disciples who have scattered the seeds of destruction throughout Christian nations.

The proof that Communism is Atheism, is furnished, first, by Marx and Engels, and later, by their disciples wherever they are located. Begin with the statement of Marx that, "Religion is the opium of the people," and then that of Engels, "In our evolutionary conception of the universe, there is absolutely no room for either a Creator or a Ruler." Consistently have their creeds been carried out by those engaged in furthering the cause of Communism. Other proof of their Atheistic principle is the fact that they work hand in hand with Atheistic societies all over the world. In America, their chief allies in this work are "The American Association for the Advancement of Atheism," and the "Free Thinkers' Society."

I quote from the Communist publication, *Soviet Anti-Religious Propaganda*: "The anti-religious campaign of the Soviet must not be restricted to Russia; it must be carried on throughout the whole world."

## WHAT HAPPENED IN RUSSIA

All of us are familiar with what has happened in Russia since the Communists took over that unhappy land; we know how religious edifices were destroyed or turned into warehouses, clubhouses, or worse; how priests were murdered and faith-embracing Christians were either exiled or executed; how decency was driven from the land and licentiousness substituted. Home life was destroyed and the child became the ward of the State, and under this guardianship, deprived of all knowledge of God. It naturally follows that the children of Russia thus deprived of truth and light, followed the Communist doctrine of free love and all other

forms of immorality that were being practiced by the people of Russia. So indecent has the Communist Government of Russia become, that we know from good authority that moral crimes are not considered unlawful, and no punishment is fixed for their commission.

All the horrors of Atheistic Communism in Russia are to be found in Mexico. We know of the persecution and exile of priests and nuns, and the deliberate murders of Christ's faithful. Competent authorities have stated that the efforts made to corrupt the youth in Mexico assumed diabolical forms that stagger the imagination. Under the régime of the Communistic Government, innocent children attending schools were guided by the teachers in performing acts of immorality. Mere babies of seven to nine years were forced to participate in these dreadful orgies. Nothing is left undone by these monsters to drive all concept of God from the human mind.

#### FEAR FOR UNITED STATES

What of the United States? Do we have any reason to fear that our country will eventually fall prey to this Satanic philosophy? Yes, I answer my own question for I fear we are hastening with giant strides toward such a debacle, and why do I utter such a gloomy prophecy? Not only in the educational field has the slimy tentacles of Communism reached, but it is becoming firmly intrenched in the ranks of labor, governmental policies, and even certain so-called Christian church bodies. Rank heresies engendered by Communists have sprung up and have caused division in churches. On all sides, under every conceivable guise, the people of America are being taught Atheistic philosophies.

#### GROWTH OF PAGANISM

This is fertile ground in which to sow its seed. When we realize that approximately seventy per cent of our population profess no religious affiliation, it is easy to understand the rapid and tremendous growth of Paganism. Well organized in every field of endeavor, plentifully supplied with funds, the Communists of America work twenty-four hours a day. Their success is alarming.

To return to the sphere of education. It is not hard to understand the tremendous success the Communists have en-

joyed among students. Altogether too many teachers are either open members of the Communist party or kindred organizations that are truly Communistic in practice and intended to deceive by sailing under false colors. One particular group is "The American Civil Liberties Union." Ostensibly formed to protect the right of free speech, it is in reality a subsidiary of the Communist party. This is but one of hundreds of groups organized throughout America formed to further Communism. I am unable to give you a full list, because almost daily, we find new ones springing up.

Through thousands of publications that have their special appeal to all ages and all conditions, our country is literally flooded with propaganda. When we realize that the American Communist, together with all Communistic orders throughout the world, are, by their own admissions, branches of the Soviet Government of Russia, we can appreciate their strength and the reasons for their progress. What is the connection between Communism and schools and educators?

#### HARRY ELMER BARNES

Professor Harry Elmer Barnes, a member of the "American Civil Liberties Union," is one of the best known writers and teachers in America today. His books and services are in great demand. His record is a long one consisting of un-American activities, coupled with a consistent effort in all his writings to deride God and promote Atheism. A thumbnail sketch would be about as follows:

He was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union National Committee; also, a member of the Executive Committee of the A. C. L. U. He endorsed "Hapgood Professional Patriots." This book was issued in serial form by the Communist party's daily paper, the *Daily Worker*; pure Communist propaganda. Organized A. C. L. U. Branch at University of Wisconsin. Signed appeal for Chinese Communists. Was financed by "The Garland Fund" to study so-called American Imperialism. This is the same Garland Fund exposed by Congressman Fish as Communistic. Listed as a speaker for Communist Labor Institute. Called United States Supreme Court "menace to American Liberty."

*The New York Times*, in a recent issue, reported Barnes as addressing "The Whig-Clio Society," an undergraduate literary society of Princeton University, as follows:

"Barnes praised Soviet Russia's war on religion and said that Russia's crusade against Orthodox Religion was against 'the greatest scourge to humanity.' Barnes further said that the drive against Religion by the Soviet was no different from the efforts of the Christians centuries ago to curb heresy. He praised the Soviet Government warmly for their attack on supernatural religion."

Mrs. Albert W. Dilling, author of "Red Network" and the recognized Red authority, quotes Barnes as having made the following statement:

#### NO SUCH THING AS SIN

"There is no such thing as sin, scientifically speaking, and hence it disappears into the limbo of outworn superstition. The Bible deserves no reverential awe."

Barnes was an honorary vice-president of the organization known as "The Freethinkers of America." Was also professor of sociology at Smith College for Girls. Listen to these quotations from one of his latest books, namely, "The New History and Social Studies":

"The reasons for the phenomenal grip of the Catholic Church upon its communicants can never be wholly appreciated until one reflects that with its combination of the Papacy and Mariolatry, it provides for an unique dual 'transference' of the filial and sexual attachments of both female and male believers to the 'Holy Father' and the 'Holy Mother,' respectively (Page 249). This suggests Barnes' conversion to the Freudian theory that sex is all that matters and is the reason for all our actions. Again on page 531, 'Christian civilization may have placed higher esteem upon the woman than paganism, but it certainly degraded women and sex in general.'"

From his book, "The Twilight of Christianity," I quote: "It is difficult to justify legal interference in those sexual relations which do not involve personal violence or fraudulent misrepresentation." He called the Bible "an allegedly holy book."

#### MARX REPLACES JEHOVAH

Barnes defined Communism as follows: "Communism is the great secular religion with Marx in the place of Jehovah, Lenin in the place of Jesus, Trotsky in the place of St. Paul, and Stalin in the place of St. Peter."

Despite such an Atheistic and subversive record, last year he was advertised as a lecturer by Temple University's Evening Extension Division of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. During the same course, Professor Harry A. Overstreet, who has a long list of radical activities to his credit, also was advertised as a lecturer. Is it surprising to find Communist activities in any school where such men come into contact with students? Don't you think it was more than a coincidence that Bertrand Russell, the English Socialist and writer, was invited to lecture to the students of Smith College for Girls? Russell lectured before many student bodies and we have every reason to believe that he was brought to America by Communists. Quotations from the books written by Russell are too indecent to utter in public, but one or two examples of his mildest will give us the general tenor of the Atheistic philosophy that is being taught the youth of America.

#### RUSSELL'S THEORIES

In some of his works which university professors laud as "classics," Russell discusses "What Can a Free Man Worship?" Therein this ultra-modern philosopher describes all and sundry religionists as bounden thralls and asserts that a free man, a "civilized" and "enlightened" free man can worship nothing unless it be "omnipotent matter rolling on its relentless way." According to this mentor, he infers that all one needs to do to become "civilized," "enlightened" and "free in heart and spirit," is to espouse Godless materialism.

Barnes, Overstreet and Russell are an infinitesimal part of those writers and teachers whom we should condemn. The list of those engaged in Atheistic and Communistic work is a long, sad recital of those pagans who are endeavoring to ruin the ideals of our youth.

#### BLASPHEMY IN PRESS

One of the editorial writers connected with the Communist daily newspaper called the *Daily Worker*, is typical of the depraved exponents of Communism. In the *Daily Worker* of recent date, we find Michael Gold uttering the vilest blasphemy conceivable. Let me quote you his exact words:

"Dear God—That was a fine job some of your hired hands did down in Maryland last week, lynching a poor colored boy. Great stuff. I suppose you were around somewhere, chuckling. Wait till we get the string around your own white old neck, but gosh, this letter is supposed to make one spiritual, and here I am, being bitter again. Well, sir, I see where your Hitler is doing a big business for you. You never had a better salesman than this Jew-killer. By the way, what are your quotations on poison gas and bombs? The Pope admires the efficient way you are starving out the unemployed. This beats birth control. But I don't like your last batch of Matthew Wolls and Ralph Easleys. They have spoiled in transit, the smell has been ferocious."

Gold, a professed Atheist, Communist, and open blasphemer, recently lectured at Dartmouth College.

And another so-called Liberal, Jesse Holmes, president of the "American Federation of Teachers, Local No. 192," who is ever ready to take up the cudgels in the interest of free speech and assembly paraphrased the XXIII Psalm as follows:

"The Lord is my automobile's low gear to help me in climbing hard hills.

The Lord is my antiseptic in times of dangerous epidemics.

The Lord is my dynamo to charge my run-down batteries.

The Lord is sunlight in my room, bringing me the health of ultra-violet rays."

I could go on indefinitely quoting such cases, but each case is a repetition of the others; a history of a concerted effort to ensnare the youth of America. And why? Because the destiny of a nation rests with its youth.

#### YOUTH FOR THE STATE

Whenever the Socialist State exists, there we find youth regimented. Their philosophy is "youth for the State" and not "the State for youth." In the philosophy of the Socialist State, the individual man or woman belongs wholly to the State. He or she is but a cog in the wheel, a stone in the masonry. He or she has no intrinsic dignity or value, no God-given rights or destiny. In State absolutism, the child is born for the State. The mothers are mere human incubators. Knowing this, we can realize the avidity with which

Communism seizes on any type of doctrine that will give our youth the idea that this is a world to be viewed in a purely materialistic sense to the exclusion of all understanding of God or good morals.

#### COMMONWEALTH COLLEGE

The story of Commonwealth College in Arkansas is a picture of the most debasing practice of Communist activities in the United States of America. This school, founded by money given by Communists, has a record that equals the tale of Sodom and Gomorrah. The sworn statements of peace officers, residents in close proximity to the school, and the statements of some of the students, make up the most sordid story that has ever been written of happenings in these days of advanced civilization. Atheism, Communism, and free love were not only taught in the unholy atmosphere of this college, but sad to relate, under the guidance of the teachers, all those ungodly teachings were practiced. In one instance, a boy of fourteen years was inducted into the pagan rites that were part of the curriculum, and according to the sworn testimony of his sister, boasted of a disbelief in God, which he had absorbed during his stay at this college. Disrespect for America and the substitution of the red flag of Russia for our own emblem as an object of respect were also strongly stressed. Thoroughly Communistic, this school continues, supported by contributions from the Red enemy, and despite this record of filth, we find the educational division of the "Federal Emergency Relief Administration" providing scholarships for students to attend such a sink of iniquity.

I am sure the principal weapons used by the Communists to achieve their ambition of destroying our form of Government and subjecting us to the Soviet Government of Russia, are mendacity and dissension. Lenin, the Father of Communism, said: "It is not the people who prepare revolutions. One has to prepare the people for revolt. And we, the Communists, can secure Communism in one country only by introducing it in all countries. We can introduce it in other countries only to the degree that we can promote dissension." And Lenin said:

"We Bolsheviks are going to bring the Social Revolution as much to America as to Europe. It is coming syste-

matically, step by step. The struggle will be long, cruel and sanguinary. . . . What matters the loss of ninety per cent by executions if ten per cent of Communists remain to carry on the Revolution? . . . Bolshevism is not a seminary for young ladies. All children should be present at the executions and rejoice at the death of the enemies of the proletariat."

Speaking of religion, Stalin said: "By May 1, 1937, there should not be one single church left within the borders of Soviet Russia, and the idea of God will have been banished from the Soviet Union as a remnant of the Middle Ages, which has been used for the purpose of oppressing the working classes."

And Lunatscharsky, speaking of Christians, said: "We hate Christians. The best among them must be looked upon as our very worst enemies. They preach love and mercy to one's neighbor. What we intend having is hatred. We must learn how to hate, for only at this price can we conquer the world. We have made an end of the kings of the world, let us now make an end of the kings of the clouds. All religions are poison. They put the mind to sleep and destroy it, they kill both will-power and conscience. War to the knife must be declared against all religions. Our task is the destruction of all religion and all morality."

There is nothing at which they will hesitate; thus we see Communists mixing into all activities of the day. For instance, the so-called Pacifist movements. At least ninety-eight per cent of these peace movements are fostered by the Communists, and particularly the peace movements arising in schools and colleges. This interest in Pacifism is an index to the manner in which dissension is used by these enemies of America.

#### CANNOT BE SINCERE

Imagine, if you can, the sincerity of the Communists who are committed to a program of force and violence to achieve their ends, engaged in any sincere effort for peace. Proof of their belief in the practice of violence is contained in this utterance of Lenin, "The scientific concept, dictatorship, means nothing more or less than power which directly rests in violence, which is not limited by any law or absolute rules.

Dictatorship means unlimited power resting on violence and not on law." When asked the Communist idea of morals, Lenin replied, "That is moral which helps Communism."

Many sincere advocates of world peace are being fooled into joining Communist or un-American organizations. The principal offenders are the "Women's International League for Peace and Freedom" and the "Students' League for Industrial Democracy," now known as the "American Students' League." Everywhere in our everyday life, in churches, in schools, in colleges, in peace movements and labor organizations, we find this beast, Communism. No angles are overlooked. The doctrine of Atheism and un-Americanism has permeated every nook and corner.

### FACING WORLD CRISIS

In my opinion, we are now facing a crisis in world affairs because of only one fact. So-called civilization for the past hundred years has been drifting away from God. Because God is passing out of the world, we are facing a new slavery. This new slavery not only takes possession of the body, the labor and property of man, but also of his soul. This new slavery not only seizes what is human in man, but also what is divine. I mean the Socialist, Atheistic State when I speak of a new slavery. The Atheistic State is always a slave State because it deprives its citizens of their souls as well as all economic freedom. This brings us to another contradictory argument advanced by the Communists. The condemnation of Capitalism by Communism is absolutely unjust. Communism says that Capitalism concentrates wealth in the hands of a few. Logically, the Communistic argument against Capitalism could be termed a mad doctrine because it says the wealth should be concentrated in the hands of the State, thus creating a Capitalistic State.

Accordingly, in summing up all the arguments advanced by the Communists, we find that it is a purely materialistic philosophy. The new social order and the new conception of man would make of human beings but logs to be thrown on a bonfire to keep ablaze the material things of the universe. Man's life becomes a pilgrimage to the factory. His prayers are diverted from God to the State. This effect has already been achieved in Russia, where man has been fashioned into a tool.

## MAN AN ANIMAL IN MEXICO

In Mexico, man is being fashioned into an animal. In such a fashion, becoming but cogs in a machine, grinding out pig-sty morality. We, who have the true concept of man, realize that he is more than an automaton; his natural heritage is a home here on earth where he can develop a school in which truth and beauty can be communicated; a church in which he can converse with God. Our problem is to decide which is to take precedence: the human right or the economic right. Does the human right yield to the economic right to dispossess him and to turn everything over to the Socialist State? Does the economic right permit these revolutionists to render unto Cæsar even the things that are God's?

This atheistic philosophy of Communism is attempting to shatter the mould in which God made man, a logical sequence of the doctrines of Marx and Engels.

The cry of the Communists is "Down! Down with God! Down with the flag of America! Down with the wealthy! Down with the Church!" Our answer as Catholic Americans should be "Up from class hatred! Up from being a tool or an animal! Up with the flag of America! Up from the earth! Up beyond the stars! Up to God for whom we were made!"

## STATE EXISTS FOR MEN

Catholicity has ever been the staunch defender of authority when kept within due and just bounds. But when any power seeks to exercise that authority unjustly, as when the State, for example, sets itself up as the absolute and ultimate, the Church turns to the State and says: "No! The people do not exist for the State. You exist for them."

It is most refreshing to quote Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler on the subject of education without religion. In an address last year, he pictured the present deplorable condition of our modern State-controlled system of education without religion. He exposed the inherent injustice of the system which deprives the child of a fundamental right and pointed out the inevitable and disastrous results which shall accrue from the system. In his address, Doctor Butler said, in part:

"From the viewpoint of sound educational principle, this

is a serious state of affairs, since the religious inheritance of the race is an essential part of the history of that civilization toward a knowledge of which it is the chief business of education to lead youth from generation to generation. One need not himself be religious, or indeed have any great concern for religion, to grasp the fact that religion has had a very large, often a preponderant, influence in shaping our contemporary civilization and in laying the foundations of our present-day social, economic and political institutions. During the half century just past, this condition has changed entirely, and religious knowledge, together with religious interest, is passing all too rapidly out of the educational process.

"The primary and responsible influences in the religious education of children should, of course, be the family and the church. The family, unhappily, has largely broken down as a shaping and directing educational force and influence, while the church, as represented by the Protestant churches at least, despite various statistical statements, is falling farther and farther behind, year by year, in the effectiveness of its religious instruction. So far as tax-supported schools are concerned, an odd situation has been permitted to arise. The separation of Church and State is fundamental in our American political order, but so far as religious instruction is concerned this principle has been so far departed from as to put the whole force and influence of the tax-supported school on the side of one element of the population, namely, that which is pagan and believes in no religion whatsoever.

#### SHOULD NOT OPPOSE RELIGION

"In the university the trained student is led, if he so pleases, to study various religions in scholarly fashion; Christianity, Mohammedanism, Judaism, Brahmanism, Confucianism, or any other. The school child, however, is entitled to receive, and should receive, that particular form of religious instruction and training which his parents and natural guardians hold dear. This cannot be done if the program of the tax-supported schools is arranged on the theory that religion is to be excluded from the educational process or treated merely incidentally as an element in home life. The Government's indifference to religion must not be allowed to become opposition to religion."

In these days of confused thinking, the fresh sincerity of Doctor Butler's well-pondered words comes as a refreshing breath of air. America has always listened with high respect to pronouncements of this eminent scholar, whose views carry the stamp of vision and clear-sightedness. We sincerely hope that his latest utterance will have a far-reaching effect in educational circles and so help to insure a religious culture for America.

## Pope Warns of Perils in Godless Communism

*Discourse delivered by Pope Pius XI at the Inauguration of the World Catholic Press Exposition, May 12, 1936, as given out by Vita Ecclesiæ (Rome, Italy).*

THE good God, always prodigal of His gifts, allows Us to participate in this great assembly of the World's Catholic Press, Catholic not only in the theological but also in the geographical sense of the word. Our cordial, joyful welcome to you, then, dear sons, to you eminent Cardinals, to you venerable brethren of the Episcopate, to you honorable gentlemen of the Diplomatic Corps, whose active assistance has contributed not a little to the success of this Exhibition, and to each one of you who, by your presence here today, render this assembly finer and more solemn, already so fine and so important in its essential part. And that essential part, most dear sons, consists of you, Catholic journalists of forty-five nations of Europe and America, of fifty-three regions of Asia, Africa and Oceanica, who have come from all over the world to unfold your banners and present arms, banners and arms of truth, in the place where, by Divine disposition, abides always the Seat of living truth.

We deplore two sorrowful absences, which make even more particularly present to Our mind two great countries and two great peoples: the one, vast, poor Russia, where a veritable fury of hatred against God has destroyed and is still destroying all that belongs to religion and especially to the Catholic religion, all, except that invincible fidelity and true, admirable heroism which can truly be said to add new glories every day to the martyrology. The other, Germany,

to Us particularly well known and dear, where, contrary to all justice and truth, through artificial identification and confusion of religion and politics, the very existence of the Catholic Press is not desired. Both countries do the Catholic Press honor of fearing its strength and efficacy, both render her what has been rightly called the supreme homage to truth: denial and opposition. To both these great countries, to all and each of Our dear sons therein, goes from this place, at this hour, Our sorrowful greeting and Our honorable remembrance. . . .

We could end here, but We know that you are expecting some word from Us to diffuse rapidly throughout the world as "ready writers." . . . We choose, therefore, some thoughts which seem to Us most necessary at this moment, and We confide Our words to you in order that you may make them more widely understood.

The first, greatest and most general peril is certainly Communism in all its forms and degrees. It menaces everything, takes possession of everything, filters in everywhere openly or insidiously, be it individual liberty, the sanctity of the family, order and security of society, and, above all, of religion even to the open denial of God and more especially of the Catholic religion and the Catholic Church, as is confirmed by what has been already done or attempted in several countries, *e. g.*, Russia, Mexico, Spain, Uruguay, Brazil. A truly universal peril developed by the aid of propaganda for which nothing is spared. Universally more perilous still when, as of late, it takes attitudes less violent and apparently less impious in order to penetrate the less accessible circles and to obtain, as it is effectively doing, incredible connivance or at least silence and a tolerance which is of tremendous value to the cause of evil and bears fatal consequences for the cause of good.

You will say, dearest sons, that you have seen the Common Father of all the redeemed, the Vicar of Christ, deeply preoccupied and grieved by this immense peril which threatens the whole world, and which has already done great damage, particularly in Europe. You will say, dearest sons, that the Common Father does not cease to point out the peril that many, too many, seem to ignore or at least do not recognize its gravity and nearness. You will say also, as We say it to you, that to be wanting in the duty of protecting public

morality, and of providing remedies and means of defence against this neo-paganism, to which immorality allies itself easily and almost inevitably even under the varnish of a civilization materially refined, is to work for the triumph of this menace.

And you will say also, dearest sons, and you will never be tired of repeating what the Vicar of Christ does not fear to say aloud, and that not only as Common Father of all the Faithful, but also and above all as a man of his day, not only for the good of the Church of which He is the Head, but also for the general good, that the Catholic Church is the only and irreplaceable preserver of true and authentic Christianity. What remains indeed, outside the Catholic Church, after the devastation caused by so-called free thought, by liberalism and pretended Reformations? What remains of the doctrine of Jesus Christ transmitted by the Gospels and by legitimate Tradition? What remains of the Sacraments Christ instituted? What remains even of His Divine Person? And in the Catholic Church we possess, at this moment, the providential aid of Catholic Action, which was also the efficacious collaborator of the first Apostolic Hierarchy in the evangelization of a world under the yoke of ancient paganism.

We have intentionally said that We are speaking not only as Head of the Catholic Church, but also and above all as a man of our day, that is to say, as a witness and participant in the events which menace our contemporaries and the institutions which frame and develop their daily individual, family, and social life. We speak thus because from a certain point of view, the point of view of recent definite happenings, We are more painfully preoccupied with the purely human and worldly social and Government institutions than with the Catholic Church herself. It is not that We are not deeply afflicted by the sole thought of the tribulations that the forces of evil are preparing for the Mystical Body of Christ in the person of the good and faithful servants of God, and still more by the thought of the shipwreck of so many souls caused by the raging storms of error and of vice upheld by violence, by deception, and even by wicked laws. . . . But the Church is a Divine institution, favored with Divine promises. The forces against Her may become more threatening, their assaults more and more violent or insid-

ious, but it remains written: *no prævalebunt*. This is the Divine word, and no syllable of the word of God fails or changes. They have, therefore, no wise or sane policy, this also We wish you to say, who, putting obstacles in the way of the life and action of the Church, or even only preventing her full and free development, deny themselves the valuable and strong contribution that she, and she alone, can bring to public security, to true peace, to public well being.

By this contribution, you will say and say aloud, the Catholic Church does not intend to usurp in any way what belongs by right to politics properly so-called. . . . This usurpation is untruthfully proclaimed today in order to create every sort of difficulty for the Catholic Church and to exclude from her beneficent action just those fields which have the greatest need of and can best benefit by it: youth, the family, schools, the press, the masses. The Church recognizes the sphere of action proper to the State and teaches, nay, commands, that it shall be properly respected. But she cannot permit politics to make light of morality, and she cannot forget the precept of her Divine Founder which, as put forcibly and profoundly by our great Manzoni, "*Os-servazioni sulla Morale Cattolica*," Capit. III, in Princ., commands her to make it her first concern, "to be the mistress of morality" wherever it enters or should enter: *docentes eos servare omnia quæcumque mandavi vobis*. . . . (Matt. xxviii, 20.)

We will finish by imparting with a heart full of gratitude to God and to men all those benedictions that you ask of Us: for all and each of you and all whom you represent; governments, ministers, magistrates, public officials, and private persons; bishops and priests, religious and laymen; workers in mind and in art, technicians and laborers. A great benediction to this Exhibition which has gathered here and teaches so many precious things. May the good God grant this, He who has so visibly blessed the preparation and has permitted the beginnings to fall in so unexpectedly propitious an atmosphere, general and local, far and near, even to exact coincidence with the triumphal happiness of a great and good people for a peace which desires to be and is confident of being a coefficient help and prelude to that true European and world peace of which this Exhibition desires to be and

is a clear symbol, a real example, an efficacious instrument, a fervent and hopeful invocation that in many languages would say to all, to God and to men, to heaven and to earth: peace, peace, peace.

To the frightful cry of the *Sans-Dieu*, Our Exhibition replies with the confident, affectionate liturgical prayer of the season: *Mane nobiscum, Domine, quoniam advesperascut*. "Abide with us, Lord: a cloudy twilight, which seems to herald a still darker night, hangs over the whole world: abide with us and then in the darkness your light will shine on us and guide us: abide with us, *mane nobiscum, Domine*."

## Class War!

JOACHIM V. BENSON, M.S.S.S.T.

*Reprinted from the Preservation of the Faith, in the issue of June, 1936.*

ONE of the pet run-to-cover arguments used by those who oppose any radical social reform is that it instigates class war. Many Catholics, whether unconsciously or not, are swallowed up by the phrase, feeling that it represents the worst possible calamity that could happen. They are rightly convinced that it should be abhorred as something detestable, but surely not with just a toss of the hand or a lifting of eyebrows, the while rights are invaded and fundamental principles scrapped.

The cry "class war" creates the same sort of alarm today as did the word "unclean" when it was hurled at the unfortunate leper before Christ came. And there are hypocrites now, as then. . . . Those Catholics who are so terribly afraid of a class war, who appear so deeply offended at the spectacle of Catholic priests or laymen publicly denouncing injustice, who are so zealous for the maintenance of peace (and their own prosperity) are very often not the offended but the offenders. . . . Let any priest or well-informed Catholic layman, or any religious organization stand out in front and preach Catholicism in its fulness, let them apply it directly to modern social problems, and he, or they will be labeled as imprudent and impractical. Certain Catholics will be ready to rise up and denounce these prophets as dangerous instigators of class warfare. But their measure of pru-

dence is a worldly vanity, and their measure of practicability is modern politics.

They believe that a priest should not preach the right of a just family wage to the employee for fear that he might ask for it. He must not preach the dangers of mixed marriages, or the prohibition of the Church against them, except in private instruction. Otherwise, he might offend some beneficent parishioner. Birth control is one of those things not to be mentioned amongst us (that is not by the priests), notwithstanding that the Sangerites continue to spread vicious propaganda. The Catholic priest or well-informed layman in public life, in other words, may do anything he pleases just so long as he keeps his religion in a bandbox, separated from business and separated from finances and completely separated from all social problems. He must not get under the skin or prick the conscience of those whom the Holy Father says "desire the possession of the base things of this world, an unreasonable regard for civil interests, an intemperate searching after popular applause, a despoliation of legitimate authority and the Word of God."

They do not consider what has happened elsewhere, "nations whose rulers or governments have actually risen up and have conspired together against the Lord and the Church." Too bad about the starving people in Russia and the poor, dear, good priests, exiled, but Russia is far away. Awful about those Catholics in Spain and Germany being jailed for trying to go to church on Sundays and Holydays but, then, this is the United States and you sort of expect those things in Spain. And that Señor Calles just exiled from his native Mexico claims that his country is bursting with the insanities of the Communists, "a boiling caldron of dissatisfaction." Señor Calles' statements to the press on his arrival in this country should make every Christian bristle with anger. Whose memory is so weak that he fails to remember that this man contributed more than anyone else in bringing the present atrocities upon his poor people? And Mexico isn't Russia, it is part of America.

Now the picture of human affliction as drawn by the Communists is neither imaginary nor overdone. Too many daily experiences attest to its reality. There is not only poverty, there is destitution in many quarters, even in spite of heroic efforts to better conditions. Something more, then,

is demanded of the majority than a sigh of compassion or a tear of sympathy. We must make self-sacrifice until it hurts. Thus the very Catholics who seem so fearful of a class war may be themselves a very cause of it. For those who neglect their duties in regard to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, who grow insensible of their responsibilities in promoting the common good, and indifferent to the Catholic program as contained in the Sermon on the Mount, are certainly real enemies to be feared even more than Communist propaganda.

Some ignore the fact that there is also a clash between religion and irreligion. Atheism is the foundation stone of the Communist program. Its objective is to be obtained by class war. For Christians these two pillars of Communist belief are the insurmountable barriers. For Communists they are the *sine qua non* of peace and the beginning of the end of misery for the proletariat. Communists labor for an utterly impossible and unattainable ideal. The means employed to attain it are brutal. Christianity is real. It deals with man as he is and refuses to leave out the spiritual. Catholicism in particular, emphasizes man's inalienable rights, seeks justice for all, claims Divine Authority, points out that the clergy are the leaders of the people, and makes the family the social unit of society. That is why the Communists of today know that Catholicism is their only real enemy, and for this reason, direct their first thrusts against the clergy and the second against the family.

Catholics must face these facts whether they like them or not. Things just cannot go on as they are. Forty-five years ahead of his time Leo XIII suggested a radical social reform. His successor, Pius XI insists that all of Leo's measures should be carried out, adds more to meet present problems, and urges every one of us to help, "to abolish conflict between the classes with divergent interests, and thus foster and promote harmony between the various ranks of society."

Too many people today, good people indeed, have fled the barest idea of justice. Whether they know it or not, their moral code depends on personalities instead of principles, and very often Catholics fail utterly to recognize the Authority of God Himself that makes their religion distinctive, the only True Religion. . . .

In *The Irish Monthly* Francis MacManus writes pertinently: "The real danger to any attempt at establishing a Christian society does not come from the Bolshevik but from the humbug of a Christian. He is the hidden enemy who, rat-like, gnaws at the walls and foundations of the city while the frank and courageous enemy bays his attack from the outside. His religion he keeps in his prayerbook or his missal or on the walls of his church as a souvenir, and it stays there while he is in the world as a man of the world. He becomes so hidebound that he cannot see any earthly or heavenly reason why politics or his social life, or even part of his private life, should be muddled with religion. After all, business is business and pleasure is pleasure and although you can mix that pair like a cocktail, religion is another thing altogether, something too high, you know, to come down so low. Christ was born in a stable, but that was long ago. . . ."

Class war will not emerge from preaching Catholicism as Christ preached it, it will spring from the whines of shirking Catholics, both the employers and the employed. Class war will not come from the preaching of sincere extremists or honest idealists, but from the fencing of the lukewarm whom Christ condemns. Class war will not come from preaching St. Thomas who says, "man should not consider his material possessions his own, but as common to all, so as to share them without hesitation when others are in need." It will come from those who, forgetting that charity as a virtue pertains to the Church, would "substitute in its stead a system of relief organized by the State."

Justice is a virtue. Those who would avoid class war should become saturated with the Catholic ideal of justice, should love it and live it, and seek even greater perfection in the charity of Christ. Then they should preach it to those who in their misguided zeal think that peace will come only when all wealth has been leveled, all resources confiscated, and all people made equal. The world needs Capital and the world needs Labor. The Catholic Church is the friend of both and like its Founder strives to assist each to a better understanding of the other. Naturally, in the spirit of Christ's Justice she will throw her greater weight with those who are on the bottom, and in the spirit of His Charity she will ever seek out His poor.

# When Men Go to Pray

**Man's Destiny—5c**  
**Use and Misuse—5c**  
**Temples Polluted and Ruined—5c**

TIMOTHY BROSNAHAN, S.J.

**Encyclical on Retreats—5c**

POPE PIUS XI

**Helps to Self-Knowledge—5c**

5 cents (by mail 7) cents each

In bulk: \$4.00 per 100—\$30.00 per 1,000

Carriage charges—20 cents extra for each 100

## Laymen's Retreats Explained

By

WILLIAM I. LONERGAN, S.J.

A helpful manual for clergy and laity, especially for directors and promoters of Retreats. A suitable souvenir for retreatants.

## The Menace of Atheism

By

WILLIAM I. LONERGAN, S.J.

The Menace of Atheism is the title of a ninety-page pamphlet by Father Lonergan, S.J. It aims to awaken an apparently indifferent populace to this growing peril, giving examples of its inroads, seeking its causes, pointing out its dangers, and indicating the remedy. Its appeal is to all believers alike.—*Franciscan Herald*.

25 cents (postage 3 cents) each. 10 or more copies, 20 cents each.

100 or more copies, \$15.00 per hundred (postage extra)

**THE AMERICA PRESS**

61 Eighth Avenue :: :: New York, N. Y.

*Organization*

---

# *The NEW* “AMERICA”

## July 4

“The beauty of the design in which AMERICA now appears will be, I think, apparent. That it is in the best modern style, and in advance of such periodicals as the *Nation*, the *New Republic* and *The Commonwealth* can be said without boasting. What should be pointed out, however, is the effort made by the artist and the Editors to manifest the Catholic principles of philosophy, the order, the discipline, the vitality of Catholic life in the art of typography. The modern expression of the arts has too completely been utilized by the materialists. The older expression has been too much and too badly imitated by the Catholics of our generation. We believe that AMERICA must, typographically, be a thing of beauty, and that its garb must show forth the strength and the boldness and the youth of the Catholic Faith that invigorates it.”

—FRANCIS X. TALBOT, S.J., *Editor.*

\$4.00 *Per Year Domestic*

\$4.50 *Per Year Canada*

\$5.00 *Per Year Foreign*

NEW

format  
•  
contents  
•  
arrangement  
•  
cover design  
•  
paper stock

P. S.—Why not treat a friend  
to the new “America”